

REMARKS

Claims 1-63 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-63 are subject to a restriction requirement and/or election of species under 35 U.S.C. § 121.

Election of Species Requirement

The Examiner has indicated that Applicants' invention is directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

- a. Hydrophobic monomer (a)
- b. Hydrophilic monomer (b)
- c. Monomer having aldehyde or ketone group (c)
- d. Polymerization Surfactant (e)
- e. Polyhydrazide crosslinking agent

Applicants elect the following species of the invention as indicated by the Examiner's characterization provided hereinabove, with traverse:

- a. 2-ethylhexyl acrylate as the hydrophobic monomer
- b. acrylic acid as the hydrophilic monomer
- c. diacetone acrylamide as the monomer having aldehyde or ketone group
- d. an allyl amine salt of dodecylbenzene sulfonate
as the polymerizable surfactant
- e. adipic acid dihydrazide as the polyhydrazide crosslinking agent

Applicants identify the following Claims as being readable on this elected species: Claims 1, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 35, 36, 37, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, and 63. Claims 1, 49, and 58 are generic.

CONCLUSIONS

Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

LATHROP & GAGE L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janelle D. Strode", written over a horizontal line.

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